pending finalisation of the cases against them in the High Court and Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to provide any special relief to the security personnel facing various charges of violation of human rights in Punjab. However, legal protection is already available to security personnel in the discharge of their official duties, under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and special laws like the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act, 1983.

New-items "Dalit Woman Paraded Naked"

2512. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the contents of the news-item "Dalit Woman Paraded Naked" appearing in the Hindu dated the 28th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to arrest and punish the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rise in attacks on Christians

2513. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Rise in attacks on Christians" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 1st November, 2001;

(b) whether there had been a spurt in attacks on Christians since the present Government came to power in March, 1998;

(c) if so, the comparative figures of injuries and fatal death of Christians for the last four years since 1997, year-wise and up till now during the current year; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The figures of incidents of attacks involving Christians and injuries and deaths for the last 4 years *i.e.* 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 as also during the current year (provisional figures) upto October, 2001 have been given in the Statement *(See* below).

As the 'Public Order' and Police' are State subjects *vide* Entry No. 1 and 2 of List-II-State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to maintain public order and peace, including registration, investigation of crime and compiling of data relating to communal incidents.

However, the Union Government have been providing assistance to the State Governments in a variety of ways to tackle such incidents, both administrative and promotional in a sustained manner. This includes assistance in improving their policing infrastructure, sending alert messages periodically, sharing intelligence with them, providing Central Para-military forces, and issuing guidelines from time to time to promote communal harmony in the country as well as advising them to watch the activities of disruptive and fissiparous elements who try to destroy the secular fabric of the country and its integrity.

A booklet containing comprehensive Guidelines covering various aspects of dealing with communal problems, has also been issued. The Union Government have repeatedly made it clear that acts of violence against the minority communities wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and the culprits punished promptly.

Statement

Details of incidental involving Christians during the years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001

(Upto October 31, 2001)

Provisional

State	Incidents					Persons Killed					Persons Injured				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
A & N Island	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Andhra Pradesh	—	1	2	14	5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	23	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	3	4	4	11	1	1	1	4	2	—	—	2	—	6	—
Chhatisgarh	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D & Nagar Haveli	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Delhi	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	4	48	31	26	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	10	21	6
Haryana	—	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
J & K	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Karnataka	—	1	1	16	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	10	—
Kerala	—	6	18	25	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	3	9	13	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
Maharashtra	1	9	7	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Manipur	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Orissa	3	4	14	20	24	—	2	4	2	—	—	—	43	26	15
Pondicherry	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	1	1	1	9	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	8	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sikkim	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	2	3	14	27	26	—	—	3	1	1	—	6	25	24	16
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	2	6	24	10	—	—	—	2	1	—	5	2	6	3
West Bengal	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	86	120	216	138	2	3	12	13	8	—	45	91	132	60